

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 252921 POSS DUPE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 252921

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 1775 ACTION SECSTATE USUN
INFO ADDIS ABABA BONN CAIRO DAR ES SALAAM
DJIBOUTI JIDDA
NAIROBI BAGHDAD 19 OCT 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, PINS, PGOV

SUBJECT: TERRORISM -- RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESERVE GSDR COOPERATION

REF: MOGADISCIO 1762 (NOTAL)

1. THE GOVT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ENLISTED IN THE
ANTI-TERRORIST RANKS YESTERDAY MORNING, BUT THE QUESTION IS
WHETHER WE HAVE AN EAGER RECRUIT OR A RELUCTANT CONSCRIPT.
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE ANSWER LIES SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN,
BUT IT BEHOOVES US NOW TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO REINFORCE THE
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MOTIVATION THAT PROMPTED PRESIDENT SIAD TO MAKE A BASIC
DECISION WHEN HE GAVE MINISTER OF STATE WISCHENEWSKI APPROVAL TO
LAND THE FEDREP TEAM WHICH TOOK THE AIRCRAFT BY FORCE. SIAD HAS
ALREADY HAD SOME SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS STEP, AN ATTITUDE
REFLECTED AT LEAST TO SOME MINOR DEGREE BY SUBORDINATE LEVELS
IN THE GSDR. MOREOVER, THE GSDR HAS A DELICATE PROBLEM IN THE
SURVIVING FEMALE HIJACKER. HER DISPOSITION WILL TAX SIAD'S

INGENUITY TO A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE.

2. WHEN MORE OF THE FACTS ARE KNOWN I BELIEVE WE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO ANALYZE SAID'S FAVORABLE DECISION TO COOPERATE WITH THE GERMAN EFFORT. TO MY MIND HE REACTED POSITIVELY BECAUSE THE TERRORISTS HAD REJECTED SOMALI OVERTURES AND WISCHENEWSKI WAS ABLE TO OFFER A CONCRETE PLAN TO END THE AFFAIR QUICKLY. I AM LESS SANGUINE THAT THE SOMALI LEADER WOULD HAVE ACQUIESCED HAD WISCHENEWSKI PROPOSED DRAWN OUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HIJACKERS. THE TERRORISTS WERE AN EMBARRASSMENT AND A DISTRACTION TO SIAD, AND HE WANTED THE ISSUE RESOLVED QUICKLY.

3. SOMALI INFORMATION MINISTER ABDI KASIM SALAD HAS ALREADY DONE A SERVICE IN STRESSING THE SOMALI ROLE IN THE AFFAIR. WITHOUT DISPARAGING THE GERMANS IN ANY WAY, THIS IS A PLUS IN THE ANTI-TERRORIST CAUSE. IT MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GSDR TO AVOID FUTURE OBLIGATIONS. THE EMBASSY MOVED RAPIDLY TO DISAVOW ANY INVOLVEMENT ON MY PART IN THE PLANNING, AN ACCURATE DENIAL, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, ANOTHER STEP IN IDENTIFYING THE SOMALIS AS THE PRINCIPAL PARTY.

4. PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROMPT CONGRATULATORY LETTER TO PRESIDENT SIAD WAS AN EXCELLENT INITIAL STEP IN THE EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE GAINS WE HAVE MADE. THE THOROUGH AND COMPREHENSIVE PRESS GUIDANCE (STATE 250155) IS ANOTHER. I HAVE ALREADY SENT A COPY TO THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION. I AM SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, TRANSPORTATION, THE ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THE ACTING COMMANDANT OF POLICE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HAPPY RESOLUTION OF THE HIJACKING AND SAFE DELIVERANCE OF MRS SANTIAGO AND SON. I SHOULD DO SO IN ANY CASE, BUT I THINK WE MAY BE ABLE TO STRENGTHEN SOMALI RESOLVE AND THE CONVICTION THAT THEY MADE A CORRECT DECISION IF IN ADDITION TO GRATITUDE I MAY OFFER:

--CONTINUED COOPERATION IN EXCHANGING DOCTRINE AND INFORMATION ON TERRORISM AND TERRORIST THREATS.

--TRAINING IN ANTI-TERRORIST TACTICS FOR SOMALI POLICE.

--SPECIALIZED-EQUIPMENT.

5. THERE ARE OTHER COURSES THE DEPT MAY ALSO CHOOSE TO PURSUE, E.G.: ENCOURAGING THE SAUIDS AND EGYPTIANS TO APPLAUD THE SUCCESSFUL SOMALI ACTION, BUT I SUGGEST THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG MAY WISH TO CALL ON THE SOMALI REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN WITH A MESSAGE OF THANKS AND SOLICIT CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE DEBATE I UNDERSTAND IS ABOUT TO BEGIN ON HOSTAGES. I SHOULD BE PLEASED TO MAKE A SIMILAR REPRESENTATION HERE. I BELIEVE,

HOWEVER, THAT WHATEVER ACTION WE DECIDE TO TAKE SHOULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED PROMPTLY. THE SECOND GUESSERS, AND I WONDER IF THE
IRAQIS MAY BE THE SEVEREST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL CRITICS, WILL
SOON BE MAKING THEIR WEIGHT FELT.
LOUGHRAN.
UNQUOTE VANCE".

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